

CHRISTIAN HOME + FAMILY

My peculiar qualifications for speaking on the home and family is that I persuaded a girl to marry me - a good example of outreach as well as fellowship. When we were married in Asheville, N.C. we took the 2nd most important step in our lives - the most important was taking it.

It was important to us - we knew that. What we didn't know then, but recognize now, is that the step was also vitally important to society, and to the Church. I don't mean high society - I mean human society, - our marriage was important to the way human beings live together, because the unit of society is not the individual, but the family. And so in an infinitesimal but inescapable way ~~our~~ the strength or the weakness of our home life contributes or detracts from the

whole sum of human welfare. ^{Greatest threat to Amer. soc. -}
divorce rate: 1 in 5, compared to 1 in 20 (1887); 1 in 100 in England.

I also believe that the family, not the individual should be the unit of the church. ~~That's why I hate~~ yesterday we noticed some friction between older + younger hrs in the chch program. If the family is the unit of the chch, and if the family

is really Xn, that friction between old + y^{ng} should disappear in the family - be absorbed & sublimated in the unity & love of the home - and should never appear in the church at all. The interests of the family aren't divided - what affects one affects all. If your father loses his job, you feel it - if you flunk Latin, he feels it. That spirit of a family must be carried over into the chch. It works both ways - the session must be interested in you - you shld be interested in congregational affairs. You complain they don't understand you - do you try to understand them. Take a little matter like flowers for the sick - why leave that to the Ladies' Aid. I'd like to make it a project for your Weston. Fall. - Let the older people know you still love them - old-fashioned & gray-haired this they be. That's family spirit carried over into the ch. - and it will do wonders to win sympathy for your youth program in the chch, too.

But if there is no family spirit, no unity in the family - how can you expect unity in society, in the chch. You can't carry over from

me to the other what isn't there. That's what makes the Xn family all-important. ~~The Xn family~~ Christianity is the cement that holds the world together - ~~the~~ Xn families are the bricks, the stone blocks out of which that world can be built.

Now there are two questions I want you to answer:

1. What are the distinctive marks of a Xn family? What are its characteristics?
2. What can be done to make and keep the family Xn.